

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of Senator Wesely's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Wesely amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Senator Maurstad would move to amend the bill. (See AM3679 found on page 1144 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Maurstad to open on his amendment.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President and colleagues. The amendment, in essence, would change the date that this would go into effect from January 1st to March 15th. The debate, obviously, would be very similar to that which we had on Senator Beutler's amendment to change the date to July 1st. The attempt here is to try to provide some type of a compromise for people to consider since there were 18 senators that supported backing the date up six months. This is roughly in the area of the midpoint of our session. I believe that when we are talking about a major public policy decision such as this that the Legislature should be able to review and provide appropriate oversight. As of right now as everyone is aware, there are little details available and I believe that once the details are provided, that the Legislature should be able to react in a timely fashion. Since the July 1st date was not accepted, the March 15th date would provide a narrow window in which the Legislature could review the December 15th report, and determine whether or not any appropriate changes should be made or should at least be considered. I think we should provide some oversight. I don't think that this is what could be considered a drastic change. You're, I think in the time frame of government operations, you're probably looking at a blink of an eye. So I just think that that it's important that we provide this. We would not necessarily provide enough time to scuttle the whole...the whole plan, if, in fact, that were the idea that somebody might have. It is certainly not my idea. Obviously, anytime that we can look at streamlining government operations to try to provide more effective service to the citizens of this state is something that I'm going to be supportive of, although up to this point in time, we are, of course, someone on the wings of a prayer, I guess, given the...given the amount of details that we have. So without...without extending this any